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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Tuesday - 17 April 1956

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1. The Director appeared at a hearing of the CIA subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee. He was accompanied by Gen. Cabell and Mr. Helms, Mr. Amory, Col. White, Mr. Saunders, Mr. Mason and Mr. Paul. All Subcommittee members were present (Chairman Cannon, Cong. Mahon, Sheppard, Taber and Wigglesworth, and Corhal Orescan, assistant clerk and staff member). Chairman Cannon left the hearing after one hour. The Director went through the elements of the CIA budget for Fy/1957, and responded to a series of specific questions [redacted]

[redacted] The Director also covered the personnel question, but the Committee did not appear to be as interested in this matter as we had been led to believe in the previous hearing. He discussed the building problem briefly, and Mr. Mahon, who was acting Chairman at the time, indicated that his subcommittee would be hearing certain public works items later on in the session and would be glad to take the matter up at that time if we were ready.

There was some discussion of the problem of keeping the appropriate Congressional committees sufficiently informed as to Agency operations and administration. Mr. Mahon indicated that although the Mansfield Resolution appeared dead, he felt that a means should be found whereby the subcommittees with present jurisdiction over CIA could be in a position to honestly report to their colleagues in the Congress that they had gone into this matter in some detail and that they were satisfied that the Agency was satisfactorily carrying out its responsibilities. The Director stated that if members of the Committee were so inclined, he would be more than happy to "open the books" of the Agency completely and to take them through every detail of our operations and administration. It was suggested, and the Committee agreed, that it would be a good idea, that arrangements might be made, preferably early in the next session, whereby selected Committee members could come down and perhaps spend several days in the Agency for this purpose. It was also suggested, subject to a check with the President, that after the President's Board of Consultants had had an opportunity to make some headway with their studies of the Agency, it might be desirable for them to meet with our Congressional subcommittees to exchange views with them. This idea was also enthusiastically received. All members and the Director agreed that it was impossible, in the course of one or two brief hearings a year, to provide the subcommittees with the type and volume of information which they should have in carrying out their responsibilities to the Congress.

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2. Fowler Hamilton, Chief Counsel of the Symington Subcommittee, called to confirm the arrangements for the Director's appearance in Executive Session on April 18. He informed me that a transcript would be made of the testimony, and that we would be expected to designate an Agency representative to handle the problem of declassification of pertinent parts. I told him that I would pass this along to the Director and that the Director would inform the Chairman as to how he wished to handle this matter.

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